

## Ex-Grand Mufti's Luck At Intrigue Seen Hit

CAIRO, Mar. 14 (NANA).—Behind the latest intramural Arab uproar lurks the sinister bearded figure of Haj Amin el Husseini, the notorious former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem.

Sir Winston Churchill once called him Britain's deadliest enemy.

He fled to the sanctuary of Hitler's Germany in World War II.

His name has been linked with at least a half-dozen murders and assassinations across the turbulent Moslem world.

In Jordan, there is a price on his graying head—but somehow he has managed not to lose it.

Today he has incurred the thunderous wrath of Cairo's Gamal Abdel Nasser—and for the first time, there is growing evidence that the ex-Grand Mufti's fabulous luck may be running out.

The latest intrigues of this white-turbaned, blue-eyed Arab schemer reached the public ear for the first time during the recent sessions of the Arab League Council in Cairo.

### Charge Red Tie-Up

Behind closed doors, the Egyptians charged angrily that the ex-Mufti has been "conspiring" with Iraq's Premier Abdel Karim Kassem — President Nasser's No. 1 Arab enemy — to form a so-called "Palestine Republic."

To Mr. Nasser and his disciples, no crime could be more heinous. Not only has the ex-Mufti ungratefully bitten the Egyptian hand that has been feeding him for most of the last 15 years, but he apparently has cast his lot with that "Communist tool" Kassem in a grand bid to lure the one million Arab refugees away from Cairo and toward Baghdad.

This, the Egyptians charged, is the ex-Mufti's own counter-move — "for his own selfish ends" — against another Palestinian solidarity organization planned by Mr. Nasser and his supporters in the disunion-torn Arab League.

Mr. Nasser, himself, is "custodian" over 240,000 refugees in the Egyptian-administered Gaza Strip. There are 587,000 others in Jordan, 129,000 in Lebanon and another 109,000 in Syria, also under Mr. Nasser's wing.

### Nasser Sees Showdown

The Nasser forces want to arm all able-bodied men among the refugees for what they call the eventual and inevitable showdown with Israel. They also favor strengthening the

ro headed by Ahmed Helmi, an aging refugee who calls himself "prime minister of the Palestine government." His duties today are limited to issuing passports (good only in the Arab world).

### Impatience Is Key

It is "unthinkable" to the Nasser forces that these million refugees should take citizenship in other Arab countries — as recently offered by Jordan's young King Hussein. It is even more unthinkable that they should fall under the thumb of the Communist-tinged Kassem and his new ally, Haj Amin.

How did the ex-Mufti get involved in this sudden uproar? Why has he fled to the sanctuary of a villa in Beirut after enjoying for so many years the refuge of the Egyptian government and a rent-free villa in suburban Cairo?

Arab insiders say the old intriguer has been growing impatient with Mr. Nasser's strategy of containing and trying to weaken Israel through such nonviolent operations as an economic blockade and boycott.

"Haj Amin is now 65 years old," one informed Arab reported. "Before he dies he is determined that Palestine will be returned to the Arabs. He wants the glory of re-entering Jerusalem as the Grand Mufti once again. He wants action, and he doesn't care which side he's on so long as he can play the role of a conquering hero."

For a man who once basked in the delirious adulation of the Arab masses, it is understandable that the ex-Mufti may be growing tired of playing a second role to Egypt's President Nasser.

### Nasser Has Own War

But there is another reported point of serious friction. Mr. Nasser has declared his own private war in Egypt and Syria on the Arab communists. There is strong suspicion that the ambitious ex-Mufti has been in close touch with Communist agents operating from Iraq, Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East, and that he has been using Communist money to finance his operations.

Today the once-bright ruses hair and beard of Haj Amin are turning gray. His wolfish smile is somewhat marred by decaying teeth. But his sparkling blue eyes still reveal the cunning that has given his name an awesome status in Egypt

Nasser in the Moslem world from Morocco to the banks of the Indus.

The well-modulated voice speaks softly in cultured Arabic to the roomful of Arab devotees who gather every day to hear "the master" orate. But the eyes cry out for one thing: "Revenge."

It has been said that this mysterious man rules only by fear—the fear of sudden death. In 13 months during 1961-62, one king and three prime ministers of Moslem countries who opposed Haj Amin's designs died by the bullets of assassins.

One of them, Jordan's King Abdullah, was shot down on the steps of a Mosque in Jerusalem in July, 1961. He reportedly was on the point of concluding a trade agreement with Israel, and known as a potent influence for moderation within the Arab League.

For this murder—in which he is charged with complicity—there is still a price on Haj Amin's head in Jordan. Fleeing to the other murders, he has made mysterious airplane flights to the site of each killing. He was known to have made contacts with fanatical trouble-makers.

### Went by Threats

Haj Amin came out of prison in 1951 and got himself elected Mufti of Jerusalem by vowing it he known that the other candidate had wings without—or else. The Mufti is the leader of the Moslem religious community—in practice somewhat comparable to that of a Christian bishop.

It was then he began organizing terrorist gangs to fight the Jews. As the influx of Jewish immigration from Europe began during the rise of Hitler, the Mufti organized all the Arab political parties in Palestine under the overall authority of an Arab Higher Committee, which he calls himself chairman.

At the Arabs of Palestine, he ordered 'he Mufti's arrest into open revolt, the he escaped first to London then went to Nazi Ger-

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 302D  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006